

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-4, 6, and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Vignotto et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,927,820. Reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In support of the rejection of claim 7, the Examiner contends, in part, that, “connecting elements 37 only ... [connect] the wheel carrier 4 and a fixed part 13 of the wheel bearing (see Figure 2 and column 2 lines 50-55), and at least one projection 38 [is] integrated with at least the fixed part 13 of the wheel bearing 3,” (Office Action, page 2, paragraph 3, lines 5-7). Applicants respectfully disagree.

With regard to the cited portion of Vignotto et al., it is clear that reference numeral 37 denotes “two respective holes,” (column 2, line 50), not connecting elements. Applicants respectfully submit that holes cannot reasonably construed to be elements, rather holes are the absence of elements.

In addition, reference numeral 38, which is alleged by the Examiner to denote a projection, as claimed in claim 7, actually refers to pins which connect flange 13 to upright 4 of the suspension, (column 2, lines 51-55). The Examiner contends that flange 13 is equivalent to the fixed part of the wheel bearing in claim 7, and that upright 4 is equivalent to the wheel carrier in claim 7. There is, however, no projection in Vignotto et al. transmitting torque from the wheel bearing to the wheel carrier, as claimed in claim 7, since the braking torques are transmitted by connecting elements 38 in Vignotto et al.

Since claims 2-4 and 6 are directly or indirectly dependent upon independent claim 7, they are allowable over Vignotto et al. for the same reasons recited above with respect to the allowability of independent claim 7 over Vignotto et al.

Claim 5 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but was stated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Since claim 5 has been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims, it should now be allowable.

In view of the foregoing remarks, the allowance of claims 2-7 is respectfully requested.

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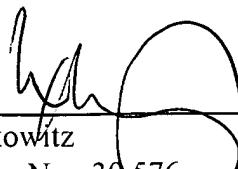
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Respectfully submitted,



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